

VZ-EPSON PRINTER PATCH V1.4
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The VZ-EPSON PRINTER PATCH allows EPSON or EPSON compatible printers to LPRINT or LLIST all of the VZ's inverse and graphics characters.

These same characters can also be dumped to the printer from the LO-RES screen, when the COPY command is used. In MODE(1), use of the COPY command will dump the HI-RES screen to the printer. In addition, an extension of the COPY command has been provided. The new command is COPYA. If COPYA is used in MODE(0), a dump of the LO-RES screen will be made without the usual linefeeds, whilst in MODE(1), a larger than normal dump of the HI-RES screen will be printed. To cater to differences in line feeds between printers, both commands may be used in the form COPYn and COPYAn, where n is a value ranging from 4 to 8. Changing n allows selection of a line feed setting appropriate to the printer being used. Should COPY or COPYA not be followed by a line feed value, then a default setting of 6 will be used.

Three additional commands, LTAB(n), PAGE(n) and FEED(n) have also been added. The LTAB(n) command is used to set a left margin for any output to the printer, whether from an LPRINT statement, during LLISTing of a BASIC program or when doing a screen dump. The value n may be in the range 0 to 63, indicating the number of spaces in from the left that printing will occur. A printout of the disk directory at the current LTAB(n) position can be obtained by first setting the output device code to printer, followed by the DIR command. eg. POKE30876,1:DIR

PAGE(n) sets the page length and n may be in the range 0 to 127. FEED(n) sets the number of linefeeds between the end of printed text and the end of the page. It can be in the range from 0 to 127, but unless it is less than the page length, it will be ignored. Setting a valid linefeed value, causes a form feed to occur automatically. If n is set to 0 then the automatic form feed is switched off. LTAB(n), PAGE(n), FEED(n), LLIST, LPRINT and both the COPY commands may be entered either directly from the keyboard, or used from within a program, but will only function correctly whilst the PRINTER PATCH is present.

The utility locates and protects itself according to available memory, allowing BASIC programs to be loaded and worked on normally. When LLISTing a BASIC program, the routine is also able to recognize all of the hidden commands, which may have been entered using an EXTENDED BASIC. Although not dependent on it, the routine can be used with Steve Olney's EXTENDED BASIC already resident in memory and will not interfere with it in any way. To use it in this way, first load the extended BASIC and then the PRINTER PATCH. Once the READY message appears you will have access to both the EXTENDED BASIC and the improved printer commands.